

independence, I remain hopeful that the coming year will bring further advancements towards the reunification that both Greek and Turkish Cypriots have desired for decades.

TRIBUTE TO THE FAMILY VISITOR PROGRAM

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding organization from my district. The Family Visitor Program of Greenwood Springs, Colorado works to promote healthy families by supporting parents of newborns. The program's caregivers go to new parents, giving them a helping hand and reminding them that they are not alone. The program has worked tirelessly to strengthen Colorado's families, and I am honored to recognize the Family Visitor Program here today.

The Family Visitor Program began in 1983 after a study by the University of Colorado found that parents of newborns were often located far away from their extended families. This separation contributes to a sense of isolation and loneliness, especially when planning and caring for a new baby. The program began sending caregivers to the homes of families of newborns and expectant mothers in order to combat these feelings of loneliness, and they have continued to do so for twenty years. Newborns that were visited in the early days of the program are now parents themselves and are utilizing the benefits of this program.

Mr. Speaker, the work done by the Family Visitor Program strengthens the very core of our community: the family. For twenty years, new parents have been able to turn to the program for guidance and support, and their children have been given the chance to begin life in a happier environment. For these reasons and for their hard work, I am honored to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to the Family Visitor Program here today.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE TOM LEWIS OF FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Florida delegation in honor of former Representative Tom Lewis, a dear and trusted friend and colleague for more than a decade. Tom recently passed away, and although his death is saddening, his life should be remembered with celebration. Tom was much more than just a Florida Republican representing the people of his state and his district, but Tom was a man of immense character and a firm believer in public service. In fact, much of Tom's life was spent protecting our great country from many different evils in a wide variety of ways.

Before Tom even thought of running for national office, he was a brave member of the

Air Force of the United States. For 11 years Tom courageously and selflessly served his country in World War II and the Korean War. Wrapping up his tour of duty with the Air Force, Tom was assigned to Morrison Field in Florida, today known as Palm Beach International Airport. Becoming attached to Florida and the community, Tom and his wife, Marian, decided to stay and raise their family. Tom became chief of jet and rocket operations for Pratt and Whitney, supervising the company's work to make sure everything was up to both military and commercial standards. However, public service once again called and Tom started on what is a very impressive and influential journey that not only benefited his community and state, but his country as well.

From 1964 until 1971, Tom served as both a city councilman and mayor in North Palm Beach. He was elected to Florida's House of Representatives in 1972 and served eight years. In 1980, Tom ran successfully for the Florida Senate where he served for two years, and was recognized by his peers as the most effective first term senator. Then, in 1982, he ran successfully for a new congressional district, where he proudly served in Congress until his retirement in 1994. During his time in Congress, Tom served on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee where he wrote and passed the Air Safety Research Act requiring the FAA to establish new methods to detect aging aircraft defects and improve safety. He also passed legislation mandating a system of finding and correcting aircraft problems before they cause serious accidents.

When it appeared the U.S. Air Force was going to scrap the hurricane hunter reconnaissance program, Tom led the successful congressional charge to keep this vital program intact. As a result of this and other related priorities, the National Hurricane Conference named Tom Legislator of the Year.

Tom also served as a member of the Agriculture Committee where he was a leader in negotiating an agreement with Japan to open its markets to U.S. agricultural products, including Florida's beef and citrus. He was also a key member of the Florida delegation in working with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate an acceptable North American Free Trade Agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the U.S.

Never forgetting his military roots, Tom remained a friend to veterans the many years he served in Congress. His leadership and persistence ensured funding for a 400-bed Veterans hospital and nursing home in Palm Beach County. This facility opened in 1995 and serves 300,000 veterans in South Florida today.

Children were always a priority for Tom. As a way to help the thousands of school children who were watching the Challenger explosion as they were awaiting their first lesson in space, he created a program to involve them in naming the next orbiter. More than 70,000 children participated in the inter-disciplinary project sponsored by N.A.S.A., and ultimately led to the naming of the shuttle Endeavor. When Amtrak cancelled their contract, Tom successfully negotiated a new agreement with them to continue bringing more than 2,000 members of the Palm Beach County Safety Patrol members on their annual trip to the nation's capital.

Tom recognized early the transportation needs of south Florida. The work he started in

the Florida legislature, and completed when he was elected to Congress, led to the completion of the "mission link" of I-95—creating safer traffic flow and better north-south evacuation. Using already committed I-75 right-of-way funds and other state and federal funds, Tom worked with then-Senator Lawton Chiles to add 160,000 acres of pristine marshland to the Big Cypress Preserve, contributing to the Everglades restoration.

There also exists a road in Florida, U.S. 27 that is a tiny, narrow, two-lane stretch of lane where more than 100 people were killed from 1982 through 1997. Tom and his wife Marian were instrumental in raising a reported \$66 million to restore and renovate this deadly stretch of highway. The highway now bears the names of those two public servants, an honor bestowed on two of the most influential of Florida's public servants.

Tom was indeed a very close friend of mine, and my prayers go out to his family; his wife Marian, his three children, his seven grandchildren, and his one great-grandchild. Mr. Speaker, Tom Lewis will always have a place in the hearts of everyone he represented and his memory will no doubt live forever in the State of Florida.

H.R. 49, THE INTERNET TAX NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my concerns about H.R. 49, the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act. I support extending the moratorium on internet access taxes, but this legislation goes far beyond that. It will cost cities around the country millions of dollars. This bill could have a lasting impact on our states and localities ability to collect existing telecommunications taxes.

Illinois and Chicago do not charge internet access taxes, however, the bill's definition of "internet service" is so broad and open ended that it could prevent state and local governments from collect existing telecommunication taxes. I am afraid that localities and states will not be allowed to charge existing taxes on voice and fax transmissions that are bundled with internet service.

In the City of Chicago, for example, the expansion of the term "internet access" could mean millions of dollars in tax revenue annually, which is currently used to pay for first responders, education, and other essential services.

Declining federal support and the failed economic policies of the Bush Administration have placed an awful burden on states and localities across the country. In the past few years Chicago and Illinois have been forced to cut funding for essential services. This legislation could make a bad situation worse.

Extending the moratorium on internet access taxes is prudent public policy. Nonetheless, I am concerned that the bill's definition of "internet access" would have a detrimental impact on cities and states across the country. The rights of our states and localities to collect existing telecommunications should not be placed in jeopardy.